



**Brian D. Newby**

**Executive Director, Election Assistance Commission**

By unanimous vote of the Commissioners, Brian D. Newby was appointed to a four year term as Executive Director for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) beginning in November 2015. In this position, Mr. Newby is charged with implementing the commission's policies in meeting EAC's mission under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and he oversees the day-to-day operations at EAC in all program areas, while managing a \$9.6 million budget.

Upon his arrival Newby remarked, "I can't wait to be part of the energy that is building at the EAC and be part of high-powered, responsive resource to the election administration community in this important presidential election cycle and in the years ahead,"

Prior to his service at EAC, Mr. Newby served as the Election Commissioner in Johnson County, Kansas for eleven years. In this position, he administered more elections than any of his predecessors and was the only Election Commissioner in state history to have been appointed by both Republican and Democratic Secretaries of State. During his tenure, the office received national recognition for operational and technological innovation excellence.

During Newby's tenure, the Johnson County Election Office frequently received national recognition from professional, civic and academic communities for its operational excellence and innovative use of technology. Newby became known as a leader in his field and appeared on

numerous panels of experts examining the rapidly changing field of elections administration and its embrace of technology.

Newby serves on the Election Center Legislative Committee, is a member of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, and Election Officials (IACREOT) and is a former board member of the National Association of County Records, Election Officials, and Clerks (NACRC).

He has served on several National League of Cities committees, including FAIR (Finance, Administration, and Inter-governmental Relations), CED (Community and Economic Development), First-Tier Suburbs, and the Municipalities in Transition panel on Family and Communities.

Before becoming Election Commissioner, Newby worked 20 years at Sprint in Overland Park, Ks., in various executive positions including operations, sales, public relations, marketing, business development, and strategic planning.

He led the sales initiative to sign three of Sprint's 25-largest contracts and led the marketing of Telecommunications Relay Service from start-up to market share leader with annual revenues of more than \$65 million. He was also part of the wholesale executive leadership team that doubled annual revenue from \$600 million to \$1.2 billion in three years, from 1996 to 1999. In 2001 Newby received the Frost & Sullivan Market Engineering Award for Internet Marketing Strategy Leadership for Wholesale Telecommunications.

His last position at Sprint was director-strategic planning and industry analysis. He worked as the business division's planning point person for Sprint's restructuring as it transformed from separate wireless and wireline divisions to business and consumer divisions.

While at Sprint, he was elected to the City Council in Shawnee, Kan., (population 63,000) where he chaired the Finance and Administration Committee and the Public Works and Safety Committee. He also served as the city's representative on the Shawnee Economic Development Council and the Johnson County Stormwater Management Advisory Committee. He resigned from the City Council in 2005 to become Election Commissioner.

Newby also served as a faculty member at the School of Professional and Graduate Studies at Baker University in Baldwin City, Kan., where he taught on-ground and online MBA courses in executive

leadership, strategic planning and marketing. While there, his teaching colleagues elected him to serve in the school's Faculty Senate.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Newby graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a Master's Degree in Public Administration, with an emphasis in policy and planning, and a Bachelor's Degree in communications studies, with an emphasis in public relations. He is a former board member of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

### **AWARDS**

Following is a partial list of awards presented to Newby and the Johnson County Election Office during his tenure:

- The Minute Man Best Practices of the Year Award from the National Association of Election Officials for 'iPad, iRegister' which uses an iPad to document proof of citizenship and photo identification for newly naturalized citizens registering to vote.
- The Making Democracy Work award from the Johnson County, Ks., League of Women Voters for the same 'iPad, iRegister' initiative.
- The Guardian Best Practices of the Year Award from the National Association of Election Officials for the online 'Election Diary,' Newby's widely read blog focusing on the day-to-day operation of administering elections. Access the blog at [www .electiondiary.com](http://www.electiondiary.com).
- A Bright Idea award from Harvard University's Ash Center for Government for the Office's use of 200 iPads as electronic resource guides for poll workers on Election Day.
- The Stars and Stripes Best Practices of the Year from the Election Center for the 'JO-CO-PO-LO' outreach campaign, including a short-code text messaging polling place lookup feature, to help voters find their correct polling location in Johnson County, the state's largest county covering 473 square miles.

- Achievement Award by the National Association of Counties for the same JO-CO-PO-LO campaign.
- Named a Best of the Web winner by the Center for Digital Government for the Office's redesigned website. The Office website was named one of five top local Government-to-Citizen sites in the country.
- Top Election Practice of the Year Award from the National Association of Election Officials for 'Mobile Election Notification' that used text messaging and podcast alerts to target young, mobile voters.
- The same program also was a winner for Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation by the Alliance for Innovation and was featured on the front page of USA Today in October 2006.
- Newby was recognized by the National League of Cities Training Institute for the completion of the Bronze Certificate - Leadership Fellow in the Certificate of Achievement in Leadership Program. The presentation was made in Washington, DC at the annual Congressional City Conference.